



Flood Control District

of Maricopa County

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Public Meeting Announced for McMicken Dam Rehabilitation *Upgrades to the 57-Year-Old Dam to Provide Long-Term Flood Protection for Surprise, Sun City West, Sun City Grand, Luke AFB*

SURPRISE, Ariz. (March 1, 2013) – Nearly 60 years ago, the McMicken Dam Project was constructed in the northwest valley to protect Luke Air Force Base and agricultural property from flooding damage. Today, the Flood Control District of Maricopa County is in the design phase for critical safety and engineering improvements to the dam and its other structures. The improvements will ensure decades of future flood protection for more than 80,000 residents and \$6 billion in West Valley property from Surprise to Avondale.

The District invites all interested residents to a public meeting to learn about the selected alternative design of the McMicken Dam Project Rehabilitation, including information about the possibility of future multi-use recreational opportunities.

Public Meeting
Thursday, March 14
6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (open house)
6:30 p.m. (presentation)

Valley Vista High School
Performing Arts Center Lecture Hall
15550 N. Parkview Pl., Surprise

The McMicken Dam Project Rehabilitation design will eliminate or reduce current dam safety deficiencies in accordance with current dam safety standards. The safety deficiencies are related to 57-year-old age of the structures, in addition to natural geologic phenomena in the area which affect the performance of the dam, such as ground subsidence (depressions in the ground surface due to the lowering of the underground water table) and earth fissures (deep cracks in the ground surface).

Maricopa County leadership firmly believes in the public safety significance of the McMicken Dam Project. In August 2011, the Board of Supervisors authorized the District to initiate the design of project improvements.

“The flood protection provided by McMicken Dam has allowed the West Valley to safely develop high-quality residential neighborhoods, successful businesses, the new Loop 303 freeway and other amenities,” **said Maricopa County District 4 Supervisor Max W. Wilson.** “The dam rehabilitation project emphasizes Maricopa County’s commitment to continued growth in conjunction with flood protection for the future F-35 operations at Luke Air Force Base.”

The current design phase started in 2012 and is anticipated to be completed in 2014.

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The project is located in Surprise and unincorporated Maricopa County. It consists of the 34-foot-high, 9.5-mile long earthen McMicken Dam located between U.S. 60 and Peoria Ave., and the Outlet Channel and Outlet Wash that run between the dam and the Agua Fria River along the Loop 303 and El Mirage Rd. alignments. The District owns, operates and maintains the dam and outlets.

“The Flood Control District has embarked on a 20-year plan to invest more than \$200 million in key upgrades necessary to ensure our flood control dams provide long-term regional flood hazard protection,” **said Tim Phillips, Flood Control District chief engineer and general manager.**

In 1951, prior to the construction of the McMicken Dam Project, Luke AFB suffered significant damage due to heavy flooding. The dam and outlets were constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1955 in direct response to this flooding event and other floods that damaged agricultural land. Today the structures provide enhanced flood protection for property located directly downstream, including Luke AFB, and significant portions of Surprise, El Mirage, Sun City West/Grand, Youngtown, Litchfield Park, Avondale and unincorporated areas of the West Valley.

With the dam project in place, stormwater runoff from Trilby Wash and other tributary washes is detained behind the dam and released in a controlled fashion along the outlet channel and outlet wash to the Agua Fria River. Without the project in place, this stormwater would travel through residential subdivisions, business development and the air force base facility.

The Flood Control District of Maricopa County is tasked to provide regional flood hazard identification, regulation, remediation, and education to Maricopa County residents so that they can reduce their risk of injury, death, and property damage from flooding, while still enjoying the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains.

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